



**Mission Viejo High School MUN**  
**34<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference**  
*Vox Populi*



## **Millennium Development Goals**

Hello, delegates, and thank you for attending Mission Viejo High School's 32<sup>nd</sup> annual Model United Nations conference. My name is Brendan McGillicuddy and I am a junior in my third year of the MUN program. This year, I look forward to being your head chair of the Security Council specialized committee. I am an AP student, CSF member, National Honor Society member, Make A Wish Club member, and the Middle Secretariat of Specialized Committees here at Mission Viejo High. In my free time, I love going out and seeing movies with my friends, taking apart and rebuilding electronics, writing and performing music for piano and synthesizer, and playing PC games (especially Overwatch). In this committee, we will discuss two topics: The Millennium Development Goals and the Syrian Crisis. The focus of this committee will be to discuss resolutions that restore and preserve peace and prosperity in affected nations.

### **I. Background of the Millennium Development Goals**

The Millennium Development Goals are a set of eight specific goals that range from halving extreme poverty to halting the spread of HIV/AIDS and providing universal primary education. These goals were drafted in the year 2000 with the purpose of completing them by the target year 2015. These eight goals “form a blueprint agreed to by all the world’s countries and all the world’s leading development institutions.” The UN itself did not play a central role in the realization of these resolutions, but it was the responsibilities of the member countries to work together and push for progress in these areas. As a result, by the year 2013, progress based on each individual country was very uneven, with a handful of countries making lots of change and advancements around the world and a large number of countries making little to no effort on their parts to work towards the goals. This lack of progress was most apparent in developing and undeveloped nations where issues like extreme hunger and poverty and gender inequality presented such an insurmountable obstacle that even the most influential member states were unable to provide any viable aid. On the other hand, the progress made as a result of the MDGs has been significant. Brazil, India, and China achieved many of their goals and made great strides in terms of infrastructural development and betterment of quality of life for their citizens. After the deadline in 2015, the MDGs were replaced by the Sustainable Development Goals, a new global initiative to achieve sustainable development before 2030.

### **II. U.N. Involvement in the Millennium Development Goals**

The Millennium Development Goals were commissioned by the UN Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon and supported by the UN Development Group. This group, known as UNDG, was established by the UN Secretary-General in 1997 for the purpose of encouraging the cooperation



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between countries of the world to improve the effectiveness of UN development on a national level. The Millennium Summit in 2000 saw the largest gathering of world leaders in history. At this summit, they adopted the UN Millennium Declaration, which included the MDGs. The attendees all came to a consensus on the most critical issues to focus on during the forthcoming 15 years. The issues consist of eradication of extreme hunger and poverty, achievement of universal primary education, promotion of gender equality and empowerment of women, reduction of child mortality, improvement of maternal health, treatment of HIV/AIDS, ensuring environmental sustainability, and development of global partnerships for future development. As mentioned, after 13 years, progress was disparate among member nations, which led to concerns about the future of the goals. While some countries completed most of their goals, the majority were not able to achieve their goals in time. This led to the UNDP's 2016 adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals. These new goals are "a universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure that all people enjoy peace and prosperity." The new deadline for these goals is 2030.

### **III. Possible Solutions**

At the current point in time, the nations of the UNDP are working toward achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. This collective vision can only become a reality if the goals are treated with a sense of time-constrained importance. Many of the MDGs failed as a result of governmental inaction to help make progress on the goals. In addition to the great benefits that these new goals provide on their own, offering some additional incentive for governments to work on the tasks may be another potential solution for countries stagnating in progress. Another possibility for fostering cooperation between nations may be the establishment of new trade agreements for the purpose of improving upon sustainable development.

### **IV. Bloc Positions**

**Asian Bloc:** Asia is home to the world's fastest growing economies and fastest developing infrastructures. Much progress has been made in Asia in terms of sustainable development, especially in China, where the government has initiated a "War on Pollution" and "War on Poverty". Asian countries are prime examples of countries that take their development goals seriously.

**Latin Bloc:** Latin nations are another area of focus prioritized in the goals. These nations would greatly benefit from achieving their development goals before the established deadline, but have had trouble realizing them in the past.



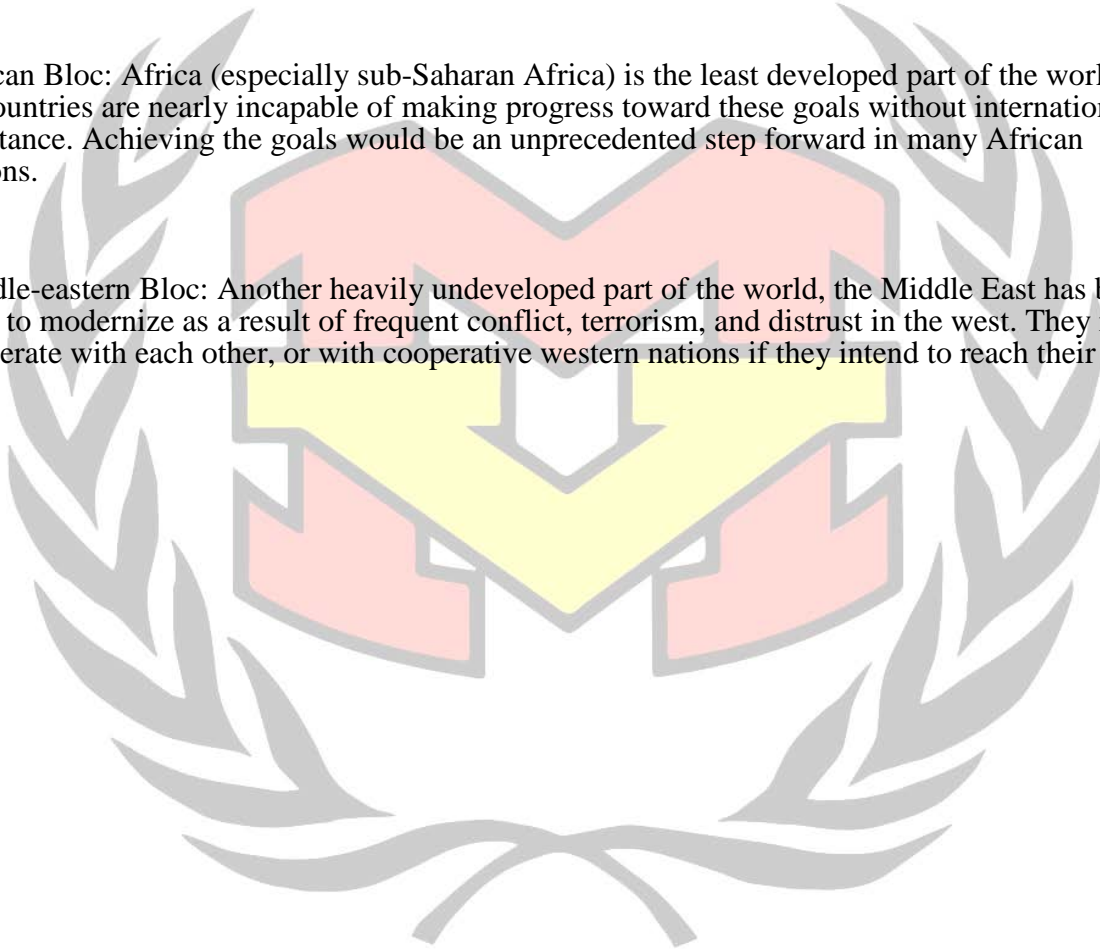
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European Bloc: The European Bloc has spent much of its efforts on assisting developing and undeveloped nations (specifically those in Africa and Latin America). European power, influence, and infrastructure gives the nations a head start, and the ability to influence development around the world.

African Bloc: Africa (especially sub-Saharan Africa) is the least developed part of the world, and its countries are nearly incapable of making progress toward these goals without international assistance. Achieving the goals would be an unprecedented step forward in many African nations.

Middle-eastern Bloc: Another heavily undeveloped part of the world, the Middle East has been slow to modernize as a result of frequent conflict, terrorism, and distrust in the west. They must cooperate with each other, or with cooperative western nations if they intend to reach their goals.





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